



NEWS RELEASE

LOUISIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Veil closer to removal as homeowner insurance bill moves to Senate

BATON ROUGE – Conventional wisdom holds that Louisiana homeowners in some parts of the state pay higher home insurance premiums, because they face a higher risk of damage due to local events: floods, wind, high rain, storms and the like. One Louisiana lawmaker, though, refutes that and would like the public to see actual numbers.

Data from nearby states reveals homeowner insurance claims in so-called high risk areas (flood and storm zones, for example) are often less than claims made by others. So, Rep. Chris Leopold (R-Belle Chasse) wants Louisiana insurance companies to file their losses and premiums by zip code and parish, as well as the number of policies they have in each area.

Leopold said the bill will simply remove the veil from losses and premiums.

“The idea is to provide important information to consumers to help them understand their property insurance premiums and to help determine if a proposed premium is in line,” Leopold said, “My bill will require the commissioner of insurance to collect all the data on losses and premiums and post it annually on the Department of Insurance website.”

After unanimous passage in the House, Leopold’s HB 909 moves to the Senate Insurance Committee Wednesday for debate. Called the Insurance Clarity act, it mirrors a law already in effect in Alabama. The bill also requires the insurance commissioner to publish how insurance companies calculate their premiums.

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